

Friday, February 21, 2025



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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From the Session

On February 12, 2025, The Presbyterian Church (USA) joined with 25 other religious bodies to file a lawsuit in response to the Trump Administration's rescission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "sensitive locations" policy that had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement actions at houses of worship. At its February Stated meeting, the Session voted unanimously to send a letter of support to the PC(USA) in regard to the lawsuit, to request the Whitewater Valley Presbytery and Synod of Lakes and Prairies do the same, and send a letter to the Journal-Gazette supporting the lawsuit. The "sensitive locations" policy, which previously restricted immigration enforcement actions in places such as houses of worship, schools, and hospitals, was a crucial safeguard ensuring that all people—regardless of their immigration status—could access spiritual, educational, and medical support without fear.

Guided by our call to welcome the stranger and belief in the inherent

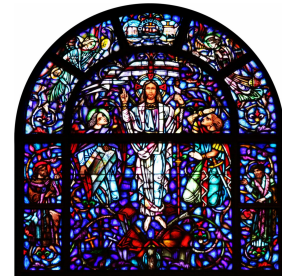
dignity of all people, the Presbyterian Church (USA) actively advocates for and works toward more just immigration laws and processes. At the same time, we believe our right to freely exercise our religion protects our right to practice our religion in public and private. This makes it imperative that our places of worship remain a sanctuary. To paraphrase the lawsuit, by subjecting our places of worship to ICE enforcement actions without judicial warrant or exigent circumstances, the government is interfering with our religious activities and our ability to fulfill our religious mandate to welcome and serve immigrants.

As Scripture reminds us, “When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not mistreat them. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19:33-34).

Sunday Worship

English

- 11:00 AM Sanctuary, Rev. Dr. Anne Epling preaching
- Watch livestream via [Website](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Public Access Channel 1 and Channel 25, Sun 4:30 PM & Mon 10:30 AM
- Public Access via [Digital Archive](#)



Korean

- 11:00 AM Chapel, Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An preaching
- Watch livestream via [Website](#), and [YouTube](#)

Bulletin

- The complete weekly bulletin may be found [here](#).
E-News submissions should be sent to [Jenny Conrad](#).
Bulletin submissions should be sent to [August Burger](#).

News & Events

Click the buttons below to read past editions of the e-news and to see a calendar listing of upcoming events!

[Weekly Announcements](#)

Annual Meeting Called

The Session has issued a call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to take place March 2 immediately following worship. The following business will be presented: annual reports, financial report for the preceding year, budget for the current year (information only), changes in the terms of call for the pastors, nominating committee report for church officers, and electing members to serve on the nominating committee.

Interior Design Assistance Needed

Calling all interior designers or interior design devotees: Are you an interior designer or do you love design? McKay foyer could use some improvements and your opinions and expertise are needed. If you are interested in helping, or have a friend or family member who would be interested in contributing, contact Beth Iserman (bdiserman@gmail.com).

FW Youtheatre Special Ticket Offer

Special Offer: Fort Wayne Youtheatre is offering \$10.00 tickets to the FPC congregation for their Sunday performance of *Something Happened in Our Town*.

Each performance will feature a talkback facilitated by Gregory Stieber and features leadership from United Front, Fort Wayne Urban League, and community representation. Here are the details:

[Something Happened in Our Town](#)

First Presbyterian Theater

- Sunday, February 23rd at 2PM
- \$10 tickets at the door -- simply say *"I'm a First Presbyterian member"*
- Offer is first-come, first-served

Adult Fellowship & Resources



Table Talk 1 (Women's Book Study): The group meets online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We take turns "reading around the table", so no homework is assigned. Participants obtain their own copies of the book.

We will be reading the book *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem* (2007) by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

Using the gospel of Mark as their guide, Borg and Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life. They begin their story on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem. The first entry, that of Roman governor Pontius Pilate leading Roman soldiers into the city, symbolized military strength. The second heralded a new kind of moral hero who was praised by the people as he rode in on a humble donkey.

ZOOM Meeting ID: 870 6712 2177

ZOOM Passcode: 260 426 7421

If you have any questions, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

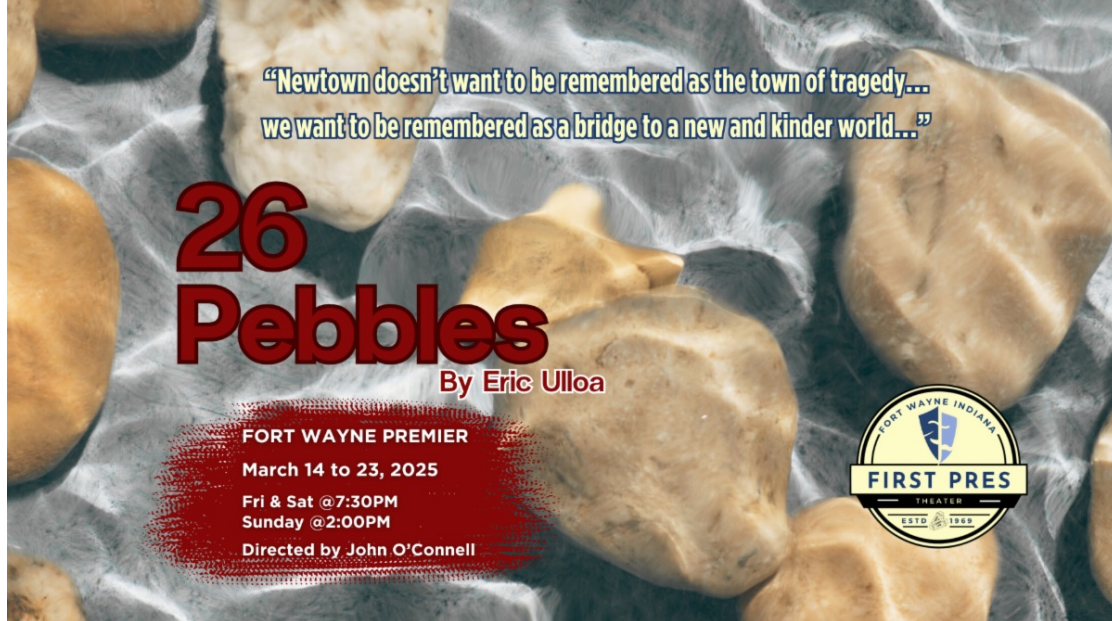
Resource Library: The Stephen Ministry maintains a resource library of books dealing with a range of issues, among them, dementia, grief, end of life planning, aging, mental health issues, and gender issues. The books are available to be checked out to members of the congregation. Please contact [Rev Ann Pitman](#), [Marcie Weissner](#), or [Carolyn Krebs](#) to arrange a time to look through the titles available.



Fine and Performing Arts

FPC Music Series: This Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 4:00 PM join us for the third concert in the 2024/25 Music Series! Known as Indiana University's Ambassadors of Song, the Singing Hoosiers combine singing and choreography throughout their programs. The concert is free and open to the public!





Theater: On December 14, 2012, 20 children and six adults died in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Following the tragedy, the community rallied together to care for and support each other as the world watched their suffering. Eric Ulloa's documentary drama 26 Pebbles chronicles the experiences of the parents and community members of Newtown and Sandy Hook and explores how the community came together in the wake of unimaginable loss.

In a series of monologues and short dialogues, they tell the story of their hometown: The experience of community events, the day of the shooting and their panic, the grief and trauma following the tragedy. Lauded for its compassion and message of healing, 26 Pebbles show how pebbles dropped in the pond can create a ripple effect for the rest of the world. Directed by John O'Connell. Tickets are on sale now. Click the ticket button to purchase online or call the ArtsTix box office at 260-422-4226. Content Warnings: Discussion of mental illness, school shootings, death, and child loss.

Theater Tickets

Touchy Topics Book Club

The next Touchy Topics Book Club is February 26 at 6:30pm. We're reading "A Father's Fight: Taking on Alex Jones and Reclaiming the Truth About Sandy Hook" by Robbie Parker. Parker's daughter was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting in Newtown, CT in December 2012. This book is about the aftermath of that tragic event, Parker's and his family's' grief journey, and Alex Jones's lies that it never happened. Childcare can be offered, and you can RSVP by [emailing Annie](#).

Lent 2025

Join us for our special Lent Bible Study Series, "The Message of Jesus," where we will delve into six of the most significant themes in Jesus's teachings and explore their relevance and impact on our lives today. With over 3 billion people claiming to follow Jesus, it's crucial to understand what he truly taught, as much of what is commonly believed may not reflect his actual words.

When: Thursdays, March 6- April 10, 6:15pm-7:15pm in the Parlor.
Don't miss this opportunity for meaningful discussion and spiritual growth!

Missions

FWCS Clothing Bank: The Schools Team wishes to remind everyone that a designated bin is available in the Small Dining Room to deposit gently-used clothing for the Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank. Through school referrals, the Clothing Bank has provided clothing for thousands of students and families in need, sometimes enabling the attendance of students who have no appropriate clothing for school. All types of gently-used clothing in all sizes (baby to adult) are needed, as well as shoes, coats, boots, gloves/mittens, and hats. (Socks and underwear must be new.) If you're paring down your wardrobe, please remember to bring in a bag of wearable items for the FWCS Clothing Bank bin. Thank you!

Schools Team: The Schools Team would like to thank the congregation for their MOST GENEROUS contributions of sweatpants for the students at Washington and South Wayne elementary schools. Over 100 pairs of sweatpants were donated! It is an item that both schools urgently need for those times when kids have accidents - which we all know can easily happen. Thank you First Presbyterian Church for being there when our schools need our assistance!

St. Joseph's Mission: Here is something you can do right here in Fort Wayne to show we care! On Monday, February 24th we can provide the most sumptuous meal ever for the women living at the St. Joseph's Mission Home. On Sunday the 16th you can sign up in the Small Dining Room to fix a dish worthy of a President's Day meal - perhaps cherry pie or cherries jubilee or Lincoln meatloaf in a log shape! Whatever you can come up with, we will thankfully accept!

Social Justice: First Presbyterian Church is participating with Plymouth Congregational Church to host Our Whole Lives teacher training (OWL) over the weekend of March 7-9 at Plymouth Congregational Church.

Our Whole Lives is comprehensive, age appropriate sex education for youth in grades K-1; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. With training, participants can make informed, responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health, behavior, gender identity, expression, orientation, cultural influences, and reproduction.

In the current environment of misinformation and ignorance, honest and accurate information about sexuality dismantles stereotypes and assumptions and may even save lives.

Please email [Beth Iserman](#) for more information about cost and scheduling details. Scholarships are available.

New Church Directory

Attention FPC Members:

Email invitations to join our church directory in *Realm* are now being sent! If your email address has changed in the last 2 years, please email [Cheri Umphrey](#) or call the church office so you do not miss your invitation!

When you receive your email invitation from *Realm*, you simply click on the link that is contained in the invite and from there, you would:

1. Get registered on *Realm*.
2. Once you are logged in, in the upper right corner you'll see your initials and name. Click on "My Account" after you click on your name at the top right. Go to "Privacy".
3. From there, you can give permission as to who can see what of your profile or select "custom privacy". NOTE: If you don't allow "anyone in the church", people will not be able to access your address, phone or email. They will only see your name in the Directory.
4. Please know that the only information members can see is your contact information, personal information (which appears as birthday with year), and groups you're a member of (such as: choir, session, etc.)
5. If you have contact information to correct or want to upload a picture, you can do that.

Please email any questions to [Cheri Umphrey](#), or call her in the office at 260-426-7421 on Tuesday from 9:00am–3:00pm, and she will be more than happy to assist you in navigating this process. Thank you!

2025 Presbyterian Scholarship

Applications Available: The 2025 selection period for First Presbyterian scholarships is now open. Scholarships in the amount of up to \$1,000 are made available to members of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, and their families to provide financial assistance in pursuit of post-secondary education.

Scholarship recipients may be of any age if they are/will be full-time students taking degree-directed courses. No one can receive the scholarship more than four times.

If interested, please email [Sarah Kelley](#) in the Financial Office for more information and an application. Completed applications, along with a carefully edited essay, a listing of church participation and activities, and a cumulative high school or college transcript, must be received by April 1, 2025.

Special Prayer Request

We extend our sincerest condolences to Rev. Carrie Winebrenner and her family upon the recent death of her mother. She is traveling to Texas at this time. Please keep Carrie and her family in your prayers.

Prayer List

- Mark Chasse
- John Ruble
- Art & Lou Brickman
- Bill Fish
- Jane Gastineau
- Jeff Linville
- Barbara McCants
- Carol Kettler
- Jacob Martin & Family

If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, [let us know!](#)

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